(b) The approx. cost of constructing of this MG line will be Rs. 25 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Due to poor traffic prospects.

Scheme for connecting Madras Central with Madras Egmore

*178. DR. D. MASTAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for connecting Madras Central and Madras Egmore for the convenience of South Bound Passengers; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) and (b) Madras Central and Madras Egmore have already been connected by BG via Madras Beach through a new line which has been commissioned on 2.4.95. The total distance between Madras Egmore and Madras Central via this route is 11 km.

Halt of Intercity Express Trains in Andhra Pradesh

*179. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps proposed to increase halts for Inter-City Express trains plying in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any study has been done of the needs of passengers in this regard; and

(c) in what manner Railways propose to get the maximum benefit for the large number of passengers in Andhra Pradesh by increasing halts in Inter-City Express trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) There are no plans to increase the number of stoppages of Intercity trains in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Individual demands are examined.

(c) Stoppages are being given as per traffic needs.

Completion of gauge conversion of projects

*180. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects for conversion from Metre Gauge to Broad Guage in the country which have been approved but are lying pending due to non-availability of funds;

((b) by when these projects are likely to be taken up and completed;

(c) whether any World Bank assistance has been sought for these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) The following projects which have been approved for conversion are pending due to constraint of funds:

(1) Kashipur-Lalkuan
(2) Bhildi-Luni
(3) Mehsana-Patan with extension to Bhildi.

(b) These projects are temporarily frozen due to constraint of resources and low operational priority. They would be taken up after some of the ongoing projects get completed and the resource position improves. The programme of completion of these projects would be decided once the work on these projects is resumed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

1023. [WITHDRAWN].

Service Programmes of Indian Red Cross Society

1024. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) neither runs nor supports any regular service programme for the welfare of civilian

(Non-Military) personnel in any State and Union Territory except Delhi and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what efforts have been made in this direction during the last five years;

(d) the total budget of the IRCS on all accounts including revenue and expenditure (except disaster relief); and

(c) the amount of assistance given to the branches during the last five years branch-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) No, Sir. According to the information received from IRCS, besides its regular service programmes for the welfare of Civilians in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, the Natoinal Headquarters of the IRCS also support, on regular basis, the Welfare Programmes run by other State and Union Territory branches.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to the information received from IRCS, their various programmes are of a continuing nature. The National Headquarters of IRCS and its State and U.T. branches guide, direct and monitor the attaiment of the various Red Cross objectives in a number of ways such as organising conferences, seminars, workshops, etc., and extending financial and material support from time to time.

(d) According to the information received from IRCS, the provision made in the 1995-96 budget arc as given hereunder:

(i) Revenue account Rs. 3,87,48,700 (ii) Earmarked for Rs. 73,62,700 specific purposes

(c) A Statement is annexed.

Statement

Annual Grant to State Branches during the last 5 years

SI. No.	Name of the Branch	Percentage	Share (Rs.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.92	14,981
2.	Assam	1.19	3,011
3.	Mcghalaya	0.30	759
4.	Bihar	6.25	15,816
5.	Kerala	1.03'	2,607
6.	Madhya Pradesh	10.58	26,774
7.	Tamil Nadu	4.52	11,438
8.	Orissa	2.02	5,112
9.	Punjab	4.70	11,894
10.	Haryana	3.20	8,098
11.	West Bengal	5.84	14,779
12.	Uttar Pradesh	23.69	59,950
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.35	3,416
14.	Karnataka	4.62	11,691
15.	Rajasthan	6.11	15,462
16.	Himachal Pradesh	1.19	3,011
17.	Delhi	0.68	1,721
18.	Tripura	0.60	152
19.	Maharashtra	11.07	28,014

SI. No.	Name of the Branch	Percentage	Share (Rs.)
20.	Gujarat	5.63	14,247
21.	Chandigarh	0.05	127
		100.00	2,53,000

During the year 1955, a sum of Rs. 15,00,000/- (Fifteen lakhs) has been released to the following six States Branches @ Rs. 2.50 lakhs for purchase of vehicles.

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Kerala
3. Karnataka
4. Tamil Nadu
5. West Bengal
6. Himachal Pradesh.

Pre-natal Sex Determination

1025. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that despite legal prohibition the pre natal test Amniocentesis is being freely carried out throughout the country by the Pre-natal Sex determination and Abortion Clinics and abortions of female foetus are being done without bothering for the law;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any Pre-natal Sex determination and Abortion Clinics have been booked for violation of law anywhere in the country;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what action Government propose to take to enforce the law on Pre-natal determination more vigorously?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (e) The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Bill, 1994 was passed by both Houses of Parliament in the monsoon Session of Parliament during 1994. It received the Assent of the President of India and the corresponding Act was published in the Gazette in September 1994. The rules under the Act have been framed, and the procedural formalities are now in the last stages. States and Union Territories have been advised to take advance action for constitution of the statutory machinery for implementation of the Act and rules. The Act will be brought into force very shortly, and the rules will also be notified.

Irregularities and Mismanagement in ET&T

1026. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee was appointed by Government to inquire into the alleged irregularities and mismanagement in the Electronics Trade & Technology Development Corporation (ET&T);

(b) if so, the nature of charges into which the said Committee is probing;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details of its recommendations; and

(e) if not, when the Committee is expected to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) A Fact Finding Board of Enquiry was appointed to investigate into the specific complaints received from Members of Parliament and associations against the management of ET&T Limited.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, Based on the